Lannie Bass

ELED 310

Fall II

Oral History Project

Connecting History with my Family

When I first thought about what I was going to write about connecting my family with history, I was so scared! I really didn’t know much about anyone outside of my immediate family (mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, siblings) so I struggled with finding information on them. Did any of my family members do anything significant? If so, what, how, when and where did it happen? The first thing that I chose to do to find information about my family is explore the internet. I found some bits and pieces of information about my family’s last name, which is Mouzon. I found out from ancestory.com that the name Mouzon is French. This name’s habitation is from either of the places so called in Ardennes and Charente, probably originally named with a Gaulish personal name (unattested), *Mausos*, *Mosos*. The last bit of information was a bit confusing, but I was quite surprised and excited to be able to find the origin of my family’s last name. Ancestory.com also provided a map that shows the distribution of the Mouzon families in the U.S. in 1920. Over 50% of the Mouzon families went to South Carolina, which is where I’m from! I thought that that was really cool! The map also got more in-depth with what cities the Mouzon’s traveled to and I know those areas really well. On day at church I heard someone say their whole name, when she said Mouzon (her last name) my eyes widened with excitement! I immediately asked if she was from South Carolina and she said yes. I went on to ask her and her husband questions and found out that we may be related somehow. He told me that his family was planning a big family reunion next summer. That would have been awesome to go and see not only if we were related, but also any other family members that I may not have known. The next route I took in finding information on my family was to talk to my mother. When I told her the assignment I had before me she automatically started to chuckle. She said, “I’m so sorry I don’t have much information to give you and that a shame.” She then told me that my great grandfather fought in WWII a few of my great uncles also served in the military. She went on to tell me that our family members didn’t do anything interesting, that she knew of, however my siblings and I can change that. Those words encourages me to strive for accomplishing great things in life from here on out. Since I got minimal historic information about my family I decided to take another approach in completing this project. I thought maybe I could create something similar to a timeline using the birth years of my mother, uncles and aunts. The information from their birth years were random bits of information that occurred in U.S. history. This should be fun!